

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-52 (Cancelled).

53. (Previously Presented) A method of establishing a telephony call, comprising:

associating a telephone number provided by a first terminal with a first Internet protocol (IP) address;

establishing an Internet communication link in a communication path between the first terminal and a second terminal using the associated first IP address; and

communicating information across the established Internet communication link.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 53, further comprising:

associating a telephone number provided by the second terminal with a second IP address, wherein

the Internet communication link is established using the first and second IP addresses.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 53, further comprising:

converting the communicated information into an analog form; and reproducing the analog form of the information audibly.

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 53, further comprising communicating the information across a first public switched telephone network (PSTN) link before communicating the information across the Internet communication link.

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 53, further comprising communicating the information across a public switched telephone network link after communicating the information across the Internet communication link.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56, further comprising communicating the information across a second PSTN link after communicating the information across the Internet communication link.

59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, further comprising:

communicating the telephone numbers provided by the first and second terminals to an IP server, wherein

the IP server associates the respective telephone numbers with the first and second IP addresses and enables the establishment of the Internet communication link based on the first and second IP addresses.

60. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 59, further comprising:

communicating the second IP address, provided by a first gateway device interconnecting the first terminal with a first network connection of the Internet communication link, to the IP server; and

communicating the first IP address, provided by a second gateway device interconnecting the second terminal with a second network connection of the Internet communication link, to the IP server, wherein

the IP server associates the telephone number provided by the first terminal with the first IP address provided by the second gateway device and associates the telephone number provided by the second terminal with the second IP address provided by the first gateway device.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 53, further comprising correlating the telephone number provided by the first terminal with a telephone number provided by the second terminal to provide the association between the telephone number provided by the first terminal and the first IP address.

62. (Previously Presented) A method of establishing a telephony call, comprising:

correlating a first destination telephone number provided by a first terminal with a first origination telephone number provided by a second terminal to associate a first Internet protocol (IP) address with the first destination telephone number;

correlating a second destination telephone number provided by the second terminal with a second origination telephone number provided by the first terminal to associate a second IP address with the second destination telephone number;

establishing an Internet communication link in a communication path between the first and second terminals using the associated first and second IP addresses; and

communicating information across the established Internet communication link.

63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 62, further comprising:

converting the information into an analog form; and  
reproducing the analog form of the information audibly.

64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 62, further comprising communicating the information across a first public switched telephone network (PSTN) link before communicating the information across the Internet communication link.

65. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 62, further comprising communicating the information across a public switched telephone network link after communicating the information across the Internet communication link.

66. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 64, further comprising communicating the information across a second PSTN link after communicating the information across the Internet communication link.

67. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 62, further comprising:

communicating the second IP address, provided by a first gateway device interconnecting the first terminal with a first network connection of the Internet communication link, to an IP server; and

communicating the first IP address, provided by a second gateway device interconnecting the second terminal with a second network connection of the Internet communication link, to the IP server, wherein

the IP server associates the first destination telephone number provided by the first terminal with the first IP address provided by the second gateway device and associates the second destination telephone number provided by the second terminal with the second IP address provided by the first gateway device.

68. (Currently Amended) A system for establishing a telephony call, comprising:

an first and second internet switch box (ISB) terminal and a second terminal terminals;

an Internet protocol (IP) server that associates a telephone number provided by the first ISB terminal with a first IP address; and

first and second gateways devices, in a communication path between the first and second ISB terminal and the second terminals,

that establish an Internet communication link using the associated first IP address and communicate information across the established Internet communication link.

69. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 68, wherein:  
the IP server associates a telephone number provided by the second ISB terminal with a second IP address, and  
the first and second gateways devices establish the Internet communication link using the first and second IP addresses.

70. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 68, wherein the second ISB terminal converts the information into an analog form and audibly reproduces the analog form of the information.

71. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 68, wherein the first ISB terminal communicates the information across a first public switched telephone network (PSTN) link before the first gateway device communicates the information across the Internet communication link.

72. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 68, wherein the second gateway device communicates the information across a public

switched telephone network link after receiving the information communicated across the Internet communication link.

73. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 71, wherein the second gateway device communicates the information across a second PSTN link after receiving the information communicated across the Internet communication link.

74. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 69, wherein:  
the ~~first and second~~ ISB terminal and the second terminals communicate the respective telephone numbers to the IP server; and  
the IP server associates the respective telephone numbers with the first and second IP addresses and enables the establishment of the Internet communication link based on the first and second IP addresses.

75. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 74, wherein:  
the first gateway device communicates the second IP address to the IP server;  
the second gateway device communicates the first IP address to the IP server; and  
the IP server associates the telephone number provided by the first ISB terminal with the first IP address provided by the second



gateway device and associates the telephone number provided by the second ISB terminal with the second IP address provided by the first gateway device.

76. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 68, wherein the IP server correlates the telephone number provided by the first ISB terminal with a telephone number provided by the second ISB terminal to provide the association between the telephone number provided by the first ISB terminal and the first IP address.

77. (Currently Amended) A system of establishing a telephony call, comprising:

first and second Internet service box terminals;

an Internet protocol (IP) server that:

correlates a first destination telephone number provided by the first ISB terminal with a first origination telephone number provided by the second Internet service box terminal to associate a first Internet protocol (IP) address with the first destination telephone number; and

correlates a second destination telephone number provided by the second ISB terminal with a second origination telephone number provided by the first Internet service box terminal to

associate a second IP address with the second destination telephone number; and

first and second ~~gateways~~ devices, in a communication path between the first and second Internet service box terminals, that establish an Internet communication link using the associated first and second IP addresses and communicate information across the established internet communication link.

78. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 77, wherein the second Internet service box terminal converts the information into an analog form and audibly reproduces the analog form of the information.

79. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 77, wherein the first Internet service box terminal communicates the information across a first public switched telephone network (PSTN) link before the first ~~gateway~~ device communicates the information across the Internet communication link.

80. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 77, wherein the second ~~gateway~~ device communicates the information across a public switched telephone network link after receiving the information communicated across the Internet communication link.

81. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 79, wherein the second gateway device communicates the information across a second PSTN link after receiving the information communicated across the Internet communication link.

82. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 77, wherein:  
the first gateway device communicates the second IP address, of a first network connection of the Internet communication link, to the IP server; and

the second gateway device communicates the first IP address, of a second network connection of the Internet communication link, to the IP server, wherein

the IP server associates the first destination telephone number provided by the first terminal with the first IP address provided by the second gateway device and associates the second destination telephone number provided by the second terminal with the second IP address provided by the first gateway device.

83. (Previously Presented) A telephony system comprising:

(a) a first telephone set operable to be connected to a second telephone set over a primary network and a secondary network, the first telephone set comprising a connecting circuit operable to enable connection of the first telephone set to the primary network

and the secondary network; and

(b) a server that locates the second telephone set with respect to the secondary network and that establishes a connection over the secondary network and the primary network between the first telephone set and the second telephone set.

84. (Previously Presented) The telephony system of claim 83 wherein the primary network is the PSTN and the secondary network is the Internet.

85. (Previously Presented) A device for allowing a user with a telephone set to send and receive voice mail to and from an electronic mail server on a digital data network, the device comprising:

signal processing means, connected to the telephone set, for (i) converting an outgoing voice mail message spoken by the user into the telephone into an outgoing digital message and (ii) converting an incoming digital message into an incoming voice mail message and playing the incoming voice mail message over the telephone to the user;

communication means, connected to the signal processing means and the digital data network, for (i) sending the outgoing digital message to the electronic mail server for delivery to a recipient

and (ii) retrieving the incoming digital message from the electronic mail server; and

control means, connected to the communication means, for receiving commands from the user and for controlling the communication means, in accordance with the commands, to supply the electronic mail server with information identifying the recipient so that the outgoing digital message is delivered to the recipient and to control retrieval and erasure of the incoming digital message from the electronic mail server.

86. (Previously Presented) A device as in claim 85, wherein the control means comprises means for monitoring the telephone set to receive the commands input by the user through the telephone set.

87. (Previously Presented) A device as in claim 85, wherein the information identifying the recipient comprises an electronic mail address for the recipient.

88. (Previously Presented) A device as in claim 85, wherein the control means is further connected to the signal processing means and comprises means for controlling playback of the incoming voice message in accordance with the commands.

89. (Previously Presented) A method for allowing a user with a telephone set to send and receive voice mail to and from an electronic mail server on a digital data network, the method comprising:

(a) converting an outgoing voice mail message spoken by the user into the telephone into an outgoing digital message;

(b) converting an incoming digital message into an incoming voice mail message and playing the incoming voice mail message over the telephone to the user;

(c) sending the outgoing digital message to the electronic mail server for delivery to a recipient;

(d) retrieving the incoming digital message from the electronic mail server; and

(e) receiving commands from the user and, in accordance with the commands, supplying the electronic mail server with information identifying the recipient so that the outgoing digital message is delivered to the recipient and controlling retrieval and erasure of the incoming digital message from the electronic mail server.

90. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 89, wherein step (e) comprises monitoring the telephone set to receive the commands input by the user through the telephone set.

91. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 89, wherein the information identifying the recipient comprises an electronic mail address for the recipient.

92. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 89, further comprising controlling playback of the incoming voice message in accordance with the commands.